

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 4–20 are now pending in the application. Claims 2-3 have been cancelled. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

OBJECTIONS TO THE CLAIMS

Original claims 11-21 were not sequentially numbered as is required by 37 CFR 1.126. The originally misnumbered claims 11-21 were respectively renumbered by the USPTO to new claim numbers 10-20. With this paper, the applicant amends the newly numbered claims 12-17 and 19-20 to assure that each one again depends from the proper claim number.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1, 2, 11 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The examiner states the term “standard communication interface” in claims 1, 2, 11, and 18 is a relative term that renders the claims indefinite. The applicant has removed the relative term “standard”, and the relative term “custom” (which was not objected to by the examiner), and replaced each with either “first” or “second” as is contextually appropriate.

The examiner also rejected the claims for using the word “POD” which rendered the claims indefinite since POD was not defined by the claims or defined in the

specification. The applicant has amended paragraph [0006] to clarify that POD is the inventors' acronym for "portable device".

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 - 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,222,718 ("Dible") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,632,207 ("Little"). Claims 2-3 have been cancelled rendering their rejection moot.

Dible at best discloses an integrated power module for a plasma processing system, where the power module has an EMI enclosure 202 with a plurality of RF and DC signal connections to a plasma chamber electrode 210 and matching networks 214.

Little at best discloses a CAN 40 having a single interface for bidirectionally communicating information with a master 42 (Fig. 2). For the purpose of this discussion, Applicant assumes that the examiner alleges that the CAN 40 corresponds to the applicants POD and that the master 42 corresponds to the Applicant's single POD interface.

With respect to independent claims 1 and 11, applicant respectfully avers that neither Dible nor Little disclose a communications interface system for communicating information in a plasma processing system comprising a portable device coupled between the POD interface for communicating information that complies with a first protocol and a second communication interface for communicating information complying with a second protocol, with the portable device translating the information between the first protocol and the second protocol and being detachable from the POD interface and the second communication interface.

Since at least these elements are not provided by either Dible or Little, the applicant believes that claims 1 and 11 are non-obvious in light of the cited references.

With respect to applicant's independent claim 18, applicant respectfully avers that neither Dible nor Little disclose a generator assembly including an interface portable device detachably coupled between a POD interface conforming to a first protocol and a second communication interface conforming to a second protocol, the interface portable device converting information flowing between the POD interface and the second communication interface such that information flowing to the second communication interface conforms to the second protocol and information flowing to the POD interface conforms to the first protocol. Since these elements are not provided by either Dible or Little, applicant believes that claim 18 is non-obvious in light of the cited references.

The applicant also avers that the examiner's combination of the Dible and Little references is improper in all of the rejections under 35 USC 103 since neither reference, nor the ordinary skill of the art, suggests that they be combined to arrive at the Applicant's claimed invention. The references are directed to different and unrelated problems to be solved. Particularly, Dible is at best directed to an integrated power module for plasma processing systems, where the integrated power module does not have any communication interface whatsoever. On the other hand, Little is at best directed to a CAN 40 having a single bidirectional communication interface 44 for communicating with a single external master 42. The device of Little is used to encrypt and decrypt data communicated with the single master 42 over the bidirectional communication interface 44. Since the natures of the problems to be solved by Dible

and Little are unrelated, the applicant respectfully avers that there is no motivation for one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the references.

Furthermore, the applicant also respectfully avers that the combination of the Dible and Little references is improper since they cannot be combined without changing their principles of operation. Particularly, the invention of Dible would have to be changed from an integrated power module without any communication interface to a power module that is no longer integrated and that communicates with other devices. Also, the invention of Little would have to be changed from a can that communicates securely with a single master to a can that communicates with a master and another device. Adding the capability of communicating with another device would change Little's principle of providing secure communication between the can and the single master. The applicant therefore again avers that the combination of Dible and Little is improper since the principles of operation of both Dible and Little would have to change in order to be combined to arrive at the applicant's invention.

Without conceding the examiner's position, applicant also avers that Claims 4-10 and 12-17, which depend, either directly or indirectly from either independent claim 1 or 11, are also in a condition for allowance. Also without conceding the examiner's position, applicant avers that Claims 19-20, which depend, either directly or indirectly from independent claim 18, are also in a condition for allowance.

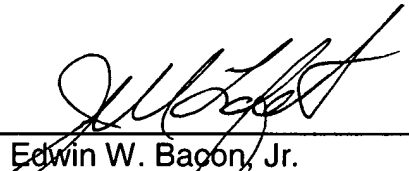
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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